

# about **YOUR** museum

## South Carolina **STATE MUSEUM**

*South Carolina Under One Roof*

### SC STATE MUSEUM MISSION

Through innovative partnerships, comprehensive collections, and stimulating exhibitions and programs, the South Carolina State Museum provides educational environments that entertain, inspire imagination and creativity, and enrich the lives of visitors.

### MUSEUM OVERVIEW

The South Carolina State Museum, the state's largest and most comprehensive museum, is located along the banks of the beautiful Congaree River in downtown Columbia, South Carolina.

Founded in 1988, the State Museum is the primary storyteller of the history of South Carolina. Through rich and diverse collections displayed through interactive and engaging exhibitions, the State Museum strives to honor the groundbreaking nature of its setting, providing both residents and visitors an in-depth picture of the state's past, present and future.

There is much to see and do every day at the State Museum through a variety of exhibitions and educational programs both offered at the museum and through distance learning programs, as well as through entertaining community events of all kind.

### OUR EXHIBITIONS AND COLLECTIONS

The State Museum has four disciplines that reflect the richness of South Carolina's history. The museum's collection boasts over 100,000 artifacts. The museum's four disciplines represent:

**1 South Carolina Art** - Just as South Carolina art plays an integral role in the lives of many visitors, it is integral to the story the State Museum tells of South Carolina.

**2 Natural History** - South Carolina is one of the most biologically diverse areas of the United States. See a giant shark display, a dinosaur and the South Carolina habitats exhibitions.

**3 Science & Technology** - The science and technology floor provides historic and contemporary exhibitions and activities. Explore space, science, discover the principles of flight and learn about the inventor of the laser.

**4 Cultural History** - The history floor of the State Museum covers roughly 14,000 years of the state's heritage. See a Civil War submarine, a train history and the African American history exhibitions.



### WINDOWS TO NEW WORLDS

The State Museum is undergoing a multi-dimensional expansion project, Windows to New Worlds, which will position South Carolina on the cutting edge of education, particularly in the critical areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Windows to New Worlds, slated to open in 2014, has several innovative elements, including enhanced guest services, an on-site and online observatory and classroom with a distance learning studio, a 55-foot digital planetarium dome and theater, a 4D multisensory theatre, an historical telescope gallery and an outdoor telescope viewing terrace.

In the capital city where three interstates converge, no one in the state will be more than 3.5 hours away. Some 75,000 additional visitors are anticipated in the first year alone and earned revenue is expected to double to \$3,000,000 per year.

## CHANGING AND BLOCKBUSTER EXHIBITIONIONS

Of the over 200,000 square feet of the State Museum, over 100,000 square feet are dedicated to permanent and changing exhibition spaces with mission-focused, educational exhibitions that draw from the museum's and other significant collections. The museum hosts an average of 8-10 changing exhibitions each year, with related programs.

The State Museum is proud to showcase large travelling exhibitions pertaining to a variety of subjects throughout the world, historic and current, accompanied by a variety of programs and education opportunities.

## TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS PROGRAM

The State Museum's Traveling Exhibitions Program (TEP) provides museums, art centers, universities and other qualified institutions with high quality, affordable traveling exhibitionions. The TEP goal is to advance the appreciation and understanding of South Carolina's art, history and culture, by offering exhibitions on a variety of topics and disciplines, ranging from the turbulent history of Native Americans in South Carolina, to unique photography and contemporary fine art.

## EDUCATION

Since its founding, serving the school children of South Carolina has been a major part of the State Museum's mission and outreach. The State Museum offers free museum admission and a variety of free educational programs focusing on art, cultural history, natural history and science & technology for South Carolina school groups. All lessons are designed as an additional resource to meet the South Carolina state education standards. The museum's education outreach team delivers lessons to classrooms across the state including the ever popular StarLab, portable planetarium.

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The State Museum offers a variety of public programs. In addition to film screenings and talks with artists and scholars, the museum offers a variety of signature events throughout the year, including:

- Museum Road Show
- Southeastern Toy Soldier Show
- Fall Heritage Festival & Pickin' Party
- Tricks and Treats at the State Museum
- Winter Fest

## MUSEUM HIGHLIGHT TOURS

Docent-led tours of the State Museum exhibitions are offered throughout the year on select Saturdays to give guests an overview of the many great artifacts that are housed in the museum.

## SC STATE MUSEUM FOUNDATION

The mission of the South Carolina State Museum Foundation is to support and promote the purposes of the State Museum. In this role, the Foundation maintains an exclusively non-profit, educational and eleemosynary structure. It also has an obligation to advise the Commission on Museum issues that will impact the Foundation's ability to raise funds.

The Foundation gives people in South Carolina an opportunity to become involved in educational efforts in the history, natural history, science and technology and art of South Carolina. When people support the Foundation, they help grow and provide quality exhibitionions and educational programming for all ages.

## MEMBERSHIP

Becoming a member of the State Museum is a great way to take advantage of free admission and ongoing discounts, as well as support the museum's programs and exhibitionions. Member benefits include free admission, discount admission to blockbuster exhibitions and signature events, discounts in the museum's store, subscription to the museum magazine and discounts on birthday parties.

## FACILITY RENTAL

The museum's facilities include beautiful wedding, reception and meeting spaces. When you use the facilities, you will have the privilege of working with an experienced events team who will ensure that your event will be affordable, memorable and productive. The museum is located in the in the heart of the Capital City with easy access to hotels, restaurants, parks and shopping. All facility rental revenues support the exhibitionions and programs of the museum.

## COTTON MILL EXCHANGE

The Cotton Mill Exchange is the Museum store that covers every corner of the state to bring the best of South Carolina to guests. The museum store has long been considered a premier destination for those seeking a unique and comprehensive selection of South Carolina art, books gifts and clothing. All sales from the store support the exhibitionions and programs of the museum.

The Museum is located in the historic Congaree Vista at 301 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201

# ADMISSION | HOURS

Adults 13 - 61: \$7  
Seniors 62 & over: \$6  
Children 3-12: \$5

Infants 2 and under: FREE  
The military discount is \$1 off  
Blockbuster exhibits require an additional fee.

Open Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.  
Closed Mondays between Labor Day and Memorial Day,  
Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Easter

301 GERVAIS ST., COLUMBIA SC 29201 • [SCMUSEUM.ORG](http://SCMUSEUM.ORG) • 803.898.4921